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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
29 September 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Chinese Nationalists Concerned Over American  
Criticism in Sun Case

A decision appears imminent in the case of General Sun Li-jen, who was forced to resign his post as personal chief of staff to Chiang Kai-shek last month amid charges of involvement in a Communist plot. Nationalist concern over American reaction to the case suggests Sun will escape harsh punishment but faces forced retirement in disgrace.

Early in September the Nationalist government information bureau directed newspapers and magazines to avoid comment on the Sun case. Since then the press has been silent on the subject, except for scattered factual references.

On 11 August, the Nationalist vice minister of foreign affairs, Shen Chang-huan, was sent to the United States.

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One semiofficial Nationalist spokesman has informed American officials in Taipei that Sun would not be harshly treated.

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Taipei's apparent concern over possible adverse American reaction to the case, plus the desire of Nationalist leaders to present a facade of internal solidarity and support for the government, makes it unlikely Sun will be found guilty of treason and shot. The best treatment he can hope for, however, is forced retirement under continued close surveillance.

State Dept. review completed

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Sun's friends, many of whom are pro-American, are reported to believe that only strong American intervention can save the general's life and are depressed by developments in the case. The morale of these men can be expected to remain low even if Sun escapes severe punishment since they regard the general's removal as a victory for old Kuomintang concepts in military, social and governmental affairs.

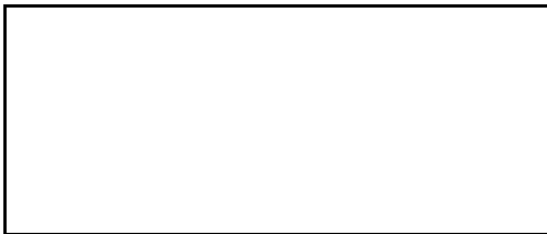
These views will probably come to be shared by other Western-oriented Chinese on Formosa not directly associated with Sun, who will interpret Sun's downfall as further evidence of increased power for the authoritarian faction on Formosa headed by the generalissimo's elder son Chiang Ching-kuo. Nor will the lesson of Sun's downfall be lost on civil and military officials still serving the Nationalist government.

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Acting Assistant Director,  
Current Intelligence

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